

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising ~~particles comprising a polymeric material~~, a biologically active agent capable of generating a protective immune response in an animal or a human, ~~a cationic pluronic~~ and an immunostimulant amount of N-carboxymethyl chitosan or a salt thereof, wherein the biologically active agent and the immunostimulant amount of N-carboxymethyl chitosan or the salt thereof are encapsulated in microspheres or microparticles comprising a polymeric material of a molecular weight 94 kDa or more.

53-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 52, wherein the polymeric material has a molecular weight of 100kDa or more.

57. (Cancelled)

58. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 52, wherein the polymeric material is poly-(L-lactide).

59. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 52, wherein the biologically active agent is capable of generating the protective immune response against tetanus, anthrax, diphtheria or *Yersinia pestis*.

60. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 52, wherein the biologically active agent comprises a combination of the V antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof, and the F1 antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof.

61. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 52, further comprising one or more chemical compounds selected from the group consisting of a polyamino acid, a vitamin, a vitamin derivative a clathrate, a complexing agent, a cetrimide, an S-layer protein, a methyl-glucamine, a cationic polypeptide, a cationic polyamino acid, and a quaternary ammonium compound.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polymeric microparticle surface modified or coated with N-carboxymethyl chitosan or a salt thereof ~~particle comprising a polymeric material, a cationic pluronic and [[a]] an adsorbed onto the microparticle~~ biologically active agent capable of generating a protective immune response in an animal or a human, ~~wherein the particles are coated with the N-carboxymethyl chitosan or a salt thereof, and the biologically active agent is adsorbed onto the coated particles.~~

64-65. (Cancelled)

66. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 62, wherein the polymeric microparticle comprises a polymeric material has a molecular weight of 100kDa or more.

67. (Cancelled).

68. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[62]] 66, wherein the polymeric material is poly-(L-lactide).

69. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[62]] 63, wherein the biologically active agent is capable of generating the protective immune response against tetanus, anthrax, diphtheria or *Yersinia pestis*.

70. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[62]] 63, wherein the biologically active agent comprises a combination of the V antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof, and the F1 antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof.

71. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[62]] 63, further comprising one or more chemical compounds selected from the group consisting of a polyamino acid, a vitamin, a vitamin derivative, a clathrate, a complexing agent, a cetrimide, an S-layer protein, a methyl-glucamine, a cationic polypeptide, a cationic polyamino acid, and a quaternary ammonium compound.

72. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a biologically active agent capable of generating a protective immune response in an animal or a human and an immunostimulant amount of N-carboxymethyl chitosan or a salt thereof, wherein the biologically active agent and the immunostimulant amount of N-carboxymethyl chitosan or the salt thereof are encapsulated in microspheres or microparticles comprising a polymeric material of a molecular weight 94 kDa or more, and wherein the N-carboxymethyl chitosan or the salt thereof is present in the pharmaceutical composition in an amount of from 0.15 to 10% w/w.

73. (New) The composition of claim 52, wherein the microspheres or the microparticles are on average from 0.1 μm to 10 μm in diameter.